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"How Does Stock Footage Contribute to the Film Industry?", "Stock footage, otherwise known as archive footage, is used for many different purposes. a lot of film is shot in the making of a movie or shot but it's not all part of what the audience sees. usually a lot is cut, or sometimes actors need many takes to get the scene right. There are mistakes and long shots for the background. rather than throw this all away, studios tend to save it all for years. The property rights on this film can differ depending on associations, contracts, and content.

This much film is required for a lot of reasons. First, filmmakers never know when they have enough, so they tend to shoot much more. It gives them a lot of options to complete their artistic vision. Even after the film is completed, they like to keep all of the extra around in case of the unplanned. Many movie channels also have sneak peeks at up and coming movies. This footage is used so the audience can see what is in store for a particular film without showing much of the actual film itself.

DVD's have revolutionized the use of this footage. Many DVD's offer special features, which contain similar behind-the-scenes specials, outtakes, and cast interviews. This is all stock footage. It lets the audience be privy to the inner workings of a film and understand how things were done. usually the special footage can be more memorable than the film.

Big historical moments can be considered archive footage, too, if they're video taped. Most of this is public domain or the property of the government. It makes it easy when someone wants to make a biopic; they then have all this real footage of their subject at their disposal. It adds credibility to the film because it shows the filmmaker did his or her research.

All iconic moments are subject to being archive footage - even scenes from other movies. in fact, one might say that classic movies are particularly qualified to be stock footage. Some shows are comprised of people sitting around and discussing well known movies, making lists and countdowns, and featuring clips. This allows the audience at home to see what they are talking about if the audience member hasn't seen that particular movie.

It doesn't have to be a large, iconic moment, though. Much of the footage is used as background in the movie and is scarcely noticed by the audience. Many films can use the same shot of a landscape or identical background for someone driving. Thematically the footage can be good to subtly demonstrate the atmosphere of the film.

it is by no means as interesting as other varieties of stock footage, but it can be a clear indicator of the quality of film. If even the background shots are well thought out to go with the main action, it will all appear seamless and appropriate.

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